

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Minister of State for External Affairs
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Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., député
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

Canada

Dear Friend:

I am sure you are aware of the recent unrest in South Africa and the world-wide protest against apartheid. Yet, despite world pressure, the government of South Africa has refused to change its policy of apartheid — the rigidly enforced structure of racial separation that denies basic human rights to blacks and other non-whites in South Africa.

The crisis is getting worse day by day. The challenge that now faces the government of Canada is to take practical steps to help bring a peaceful end to apartheid. Canadians in every part of the country must raise their voices together to protest against a system that is offensive and abhorrent.

Thousands of Canadians have already acted, and we encourage others to join them. The Government of Canada is taking strong measures of its own, including certain economic sanctions, as part of our continuing pressure on the South African government to end apartheid.

But to be as effective as possible, we need your help.

If you, your company or your organization have done something to protest against apartheid, please write to me and tell me about it. Your name will be put on a register — a list of names of Canadian individuals and organizations that have spoken out or acted against apartheid.

I want to know if you or your company are refusing to buy South African goods, if you are withdrawing your investments, if you are contributing to black education in South Africa through a voluntary organization, or if you are taking part in demonstrations against apartheid. Whatever your action — past or present — I want to know how you are protesting against this unjust and inhumane system. Please use the enclosed postage-paid card to tell me what you've been doing.

I urge you to act now. The register will soon be presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Canada will recommend that other nations follow our lead and participate in a world-wide register of those who abhor apartheid.

You are extremely important in this protest. This letter has not been sent to every home, office and organization in Canada. Therefore, we need your help by telling other Canadians about this movement. Please help us to spread the word.

Canadians can help influence the policy of apartheid. Our power is limited, but it is real. Through our actions and our example we can help bring peaceful change and justice to South Africa and greater harmony to the region.

Yours sincerely,

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